Specification Amendments:

Please amend the specification paragraph beginning on page 1, line 24, and ending on page 2, line 8, as follows:

There also is known a bent neck type of cable tie, such as the one shown in Figs. 4-9 described in copending U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 09/855,262, now U.S. Patent No. 6,530,126 ~~(Atty. Docket LCB342)~~, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. In such a bent neck design, cable tie 100 is again integrally formed with both a cable tie head 120 and a strap 110. However, in this design, strap 110 initially extends from head 120 along a strap attachment axis S substantially parallel to the strap passageway, and is then formed with a bend at neck section 130 such that the strap extends substantially perpendicular to the strap attachment axis S. With such a bent neck design, a more favorable position of the portion of strap 110 exiting the strap passageway after threading is achieved. This can be particularly important when the excess strap length is cut off so as to avoid a sharp edge sticking up. However, a substantial amount of the bending forces acting on cable tie 100 during use act at the bent portion. That is, to accommodate either a very small bundle of cables or a large bundle of cables, strap 110 will need to be stretched inward or outward and the forces from such stretching are concentrated at the prebent neck section 130.

Please amend the specification paragraph beginning on page 4, line 7, and ending on page 4, line 21, as follows:

The above and other objects are achieved by a cable tie that includes an integral cable tie head and strap. The strap includes a first end forming a neck section, a free end opposite the first end, and an intermediate section between the first end and the free end, the intermediate section having a predetermined width B [[B_1]] and thickness T_1 defining a predetermined cross-sectional

area. The cable tie head is secured to the neck area of the strap at the first end of the strap, the cable tie head having a width E that is wider than strap width B and including a strap accepting channel containing a locking device. The strap accepting channel is sized to receive the free end of the strap. The neck section has a width that transitions from a width of B to a width E' that is substantially the same as width E and a thickness T_2 that is thinner than T_1, the neck section having a cross-sectional area that is at least substantially equal to the cross-sectional area of the intermediate section of the strap so as to have a tensile strength at least equal to a tensile strength of the intermediate section of the strap. The cable tie may be a bent neck type cable tie. Preferably, the neck section has at least one recessed channel defining the reduced thickness T_2 and thickened side portions.